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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

REPORT BULGARIANS CLEARING BORDER AREAS

REFUGEES REPORT BORDER CLEARING -- Istanbul, Vatan, 3 Sep 50

Edirne, 2 September (by telephone) -- Information obtained from talks with newly arrived refugees from Bulgaria indicates that the Bulgarian authorities are clearing the border areas, and that the Kolarovgrad, Razgrad, Dobrudzha, and Kurdzhali areas have already been completely evacuated. Refugees have revealed the following information on this subject:

1. Kolarovgrad -- Military units which have long been stationed in Kolarovgrad have now been sent at night to southwest Bulgaria. As a result, there are now almost no soldiers in Kolarovgrad. At fixed times, flights of airplanes fly over Kolarovgrad, from east to west.

2. Svilengrad area -- The towns and villages near the Greek border in the area which begins at Svilengrad and takes in all the districts of Kurdzhali are being completely evacuated. This includes the minority elements as well as the Bulgarians. Refugees who have gone through the customs at Svilengrad state positively on the basis of their observations that all the inhabitants of these areas have been deported. They further state that in Svilengrad 30-40 boxcars were loaded with persons, baggage, and animals, and were sent north in the direction of the Dobrudzha. This group reportedly included fewer Turks than Bulgarians.

3. Kurdzhali area -- In this area, 70 boxcars full of Turks from the Ko-shukavak [unidentified] and Momchilgrad districts, which lie near the Greek border, were sent north in the direction of Plovdiv. (Even at 50 people per car, this would mean 3,500 people.) One refugee said that he had observed this convoy Wednesday evening [30 August?].

Moreover, 80 Turkish families in Kurdzhali have been ordered to present themselves at the railroad station today at 1000 hours. The same order was also given to 80-100 Turkish families in the districts of Novi Pazar, Egridere [unidentified], and Ismailler [unidentified] in the Kurdzhali area. Although it is not known where they will be sent, it is considered highly probable that they will be sent in the same direction as the 3,500-person convoy.

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GIVES STRENGTH OF BULGARIAN, ALBANIAN ARMIES -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet,  
9 Oct 50

According to the Greek General Staff, Bulgaria has an army of 200,000 men  
and 600 tanks, and Albania has a army of 55,000 men.

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